

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1-20 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 21 and 22 have been amended, and new claims 23-30 have been added. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 21-30 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112:

In the Office Action, at page 2, numbered paragraph 2, claims 1-2, 4-5, 8-9, 11-15, and 17-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for the reasons set forth therein. This rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-20 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 21-22 have been amended for clarity and are now submitted to be clear under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102:

A. In the Office Action, at pages 2-4, numbered paragraphs 3-8, claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 12, 14, 15, and 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Nicholls et al. (USPN 6,662,232 B1; hereafter, Nicholls). This rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

It is respectfully submitted that the terminology "condition" and "corresponding processing" are different. In the message converting information, a "condition" specifies, for example, the destination of a message when the message is received during a specified time period. The "corresponding processing" indicates a processing associated with each specified condition of each message of the combination of the plurality of messages. The Examiner appears to cite Nicholls, col. 6, lines 56-58, as indicating "corresponding processing." In FIG. 2a of Nicholls, if facsimile priority tasks are enabled (step 218), E-mail is converted to FAX format (step 220), and the FAX message is transmitted (step 222). The cited portion in Nicholls means that each E-mail is transmitted as a FAX message. That is, all received email messages are

transmitted to a common facsimile location. "The conditions" to enable the priority tasks are indicated in FIG. 7 of Nicholls. FIG. 7 of Nicholls does not show any conditions including a requirement relating to a combination of a plurality of messages. The boxes 706, 708 and 710 in FIG. 7 are individual conditions, and there is no description and suggestion to combine the conditions.

In contrast, FIGs. 14A and 14B in the present application show an example of a requirement relating to a combination of a plurality of messages, which is not taught or suggested by Nicholls. In the present invention, if a message S6663 and a message S6662 are received, the messages are displayed on WKSTN0001 (i.e., the message is displayed on a workstation at work) and ProgramC is activated (i.e., as described in the example on page 24, lines 13-22, the message is forwarded to the center for the holiday work), which is not taught or suggested by Nicholls.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that amended claims 21 and 22 are not anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by Nicholls et al. (USPN 6,662,232 B1).

B. In the Office Action, at pages 4-5, numbered paragraphs 9-12, claims 4, 11 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Nicholls et al. (USPN 6,662,232 B1; hereafter, Nicholls) in view of Kikinis (USPN 5,631,847; hereafter, Kikinis). This rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Claims 4, 11 and 17 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Thus, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 4, 11 and 17 as being anticipated by Nicholls et al. (USPN 6,662,232 B1) in view of Kikinis (USPN 5,631,847).

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:

In the Office Action, at pages 5-6, numbered paragraphs 13-15, claims 7, 13 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of Nicholls et al (USPN 6,662,232 B1; hereafter, Nicholls) in view of Lee et al. (USPN 6,721,401 B2; hereafter, Lee). (Please note that Applicant's attorney called the Examiner to obtain clarification of this rejection, and the above rejection is what the Examiner said she meant to say.) The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. The rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Claims 7, 13 and 19 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Thus, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 7, 13 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of Nicholls et al (USPN 6,662,232 B1) in view of Lee et al. (USPN 6,721,401 B2).

NEW CLAIMS:

New claims 23-30 recite additional features of claims 21 and 22 that describe the embodiments of claims 21 and 22 with greater particularity. Nothing in the prior art teaches or suggests such. It is submitted that these new claims distinguish over the prior art.

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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